

Christ Lutheran Church
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SUNDAY SCHOOL

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In an effort to conserve on the use of paper and postage, we are offering to send the newsletter out via e-mail. Please e-mail the office with your current email information. If you no longer desire to receive this newsletter please email or call the church office. Thank you.

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Christ Lutheran Church

March 2025 Newsletter



Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5th with services at 4 & 7 pm. The following Wednesdays there will be one service at 4 pm. Our worship series is titled “Silent Witnesses”. The thorns, the robe, the nails, the spear, the shroud, the stone—if these things could speak, what might they tell us? Each one of these things associated with our Lord’s suffering and death will describe and interpret the events and their meaning from that object’s point of view.

- Ash Wednesday, March 5th: The Thorns
- March 12th: The Robe
- March 19th: The Nails
- March 26h: The Spear
- April 2nd: The Shroud
- April 9th: The Stone

Sundays during Lent provides us with a perfect chance to explore the extraordinary attributes of our “Savior, Servant, Friend”, Jesus. It is a time to marvel at the many blessings we received when he laid down his life for us on the cross and then rose victorious from the grave. Each service in this series dwells upon a different aspect of our greatest Friend and what each characteristic means to us as his followers and friends.

- March 9th - Forgiver
- March 16th - Healer
- March 23rd - Listener
- March 30th - Encourager

Service times are at 9 & 11 am.

Appreciation

AN APPRECIATION DINNER for Pastor Mark & Judy is planned for **March 23rd** following the Contemporary Service at 11:45 am. On the menu is lasagna, tossed salad and garlic bread. Please sign up to bring a dessert or other dish to pass.

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Each Wednesday after the 4 pm service, meals will be served with funds provided by a Thrivent Grant. Desserts will be needed along with help to clean up after the meals. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Please consider donating a dessert or helping to clean up. Many hands are needed! A free will donation will be accepted.



COMMUNION VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! The Worship and Music Committee will be having training for all those interested in setting up communion, cleaning up after both services or being a communion assistant on **March 16th at 10 am**. Please consider serving in one or all of these very important duties.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Do you remember as a child playing pretend or make believe? Maybe you could communicate with your dolls or toys. Or maybe you had an imaginary friend. Wouldn't you have been surprised if they had spoken back to you? Consider the Biblical account of Balaam and his donkey in Numbers 22. The donkey was given the ability to talk and actually saved Balaam's life. What a shocker!!!

This year during Lent the Wednesday services will have interviews with some shocking "Silent Witnesses" to the events of Holy Week. Witness their perspective from what they observed and experienced during the final days of Christ. On Ash Wednesday we will hear from The Thorns with the following weeks having interviews with The Robe, The Nail, The Spear, The Shroud, and The Stone. Their roles in our salvation story will provide insight and a new perspective on our Savior's love for us. Be sure to join us on Wednesdays during Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday, March 5th.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Mark & Judy

Happy March Everyone!

I am so grateful to belong to a church that offers such support and fellowship. It was an awesome day voting for Pastor Bromhal and to look out and see the congregation in anticipation is overwhelming to me. We care, we give, and we take a lot away with us when we leave.

We are so blessed to have Pastor Phil coming. It will be as exciting to him as it is for us to get to know him. I hope you all will be able to come for his instillation in Christ Lutheran Church. It will likely be in April, after his Ordination, and what a wonderful time to come!

Not too many things have happened in the last month, we had a major water leak in the sanctuary but was caught fairly early by Stephen when he was cleaning, the pipe was repaired and carpet dried. Yes, I had to get on my hands and knees again! Everything else is running smooth. The snowplowing and salting of the sidewalks and parking lot have been quite frequent with all the snow!

God's blessings to all of you!

Sandy

Hello Christ Lutheran Church! I am excited for this opportunity to serve the Lord and the congregation. It has felt like a long journey to get to this point. For most of my life I did not think this would be the path God had set for me. I grew up as a pastor's kid (still am) and was constantly asked if I would be a pastor like my dad when I grew up. And I always said, "No." Not because my faith was not important to me. The exact opposite. But I wanted to go my own way. It took a visceral encounter with the Holy Spirit to realize that my way was not God's way. After getting on board with God's plan over mine, I started (2020) and graduated seminary at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary this past year (2024). It has been amazing seeing how following God's plan, he placed every stone in front of me as I took the step. I had no idea what following his plan would look like initially, but in hindsight, I see God at work through it all. And now I am here! (well not physically yet, but soon!)

A little more about me: I am the third of four children of my parents - Pastor John and Susan Bromhal. I have two older brothers (Andrew and Tim) and a younger sister (Erin). The whole family still lives in Maryland, where my siblings and I grew up. I have a Bachelor's degree in Film and Video production (which was what I thought my plan would lead to in my career). My ministry background is primarily working in Youth Ministry. During my internship in North Carolina, I served as a part-time interim pastor at a church just over the border in South Carolina for most of 2023. In my free time I enjoy hanging out with friends, playing disc golf (like golf but with frisbees), making videos for my YouTube channel, reading fantasy books as well as comic books, and rooting on the Baltimore Ravens (I remember that did not go over so well when I mentioned that the Sunday I visited in December, but that is who I am).

I look forward to getting to know you all and joining you and Jesus in ministry at Christ Lutheran.

Blessings,

Pastor Phil Bromhal

FaithCircle

FAITH CIRCLE will meet **Monday, March 3rd** at **10 am**. Come and join us in the Bible Study of “**Busyness, Finding God in the Whirlwind**”. We will hear the invitation to draw the strength we need for the day from God.



JOY CIRCLE will meet on **Thursday, March 13th** at **6:30 pm**. All women of the church are welcome.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - All Women of the Congregation are welcome to come join us on **Thursday, March 13th** from **7 - 8 pm** for the “**The Proverbs 31 Women and the Stories of Faithful Women in Scripture**” Bible Study. This study explores real women, with real struggles and gifts – women with deep, abiding faith and a passion for the will of God. The truth is that neither the women of Scripture nor we ourselves are called to be like Martha Stewart; we are called to be like Christ. **Session 7 – The Story of Mary, Mother of Jesus:** “Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.” The word “fear” may seem strange in this context; we don’t usually equate panic, alarm or dread with the experience of God’s grace. Yet in Scripture, the “fear of the Lord” is a common way to describe faith. Biblically, it refers to a healthy awe and reverence for who God is and what he can do. Such fear helps us remember our place before God and our daily dependence upon Him.



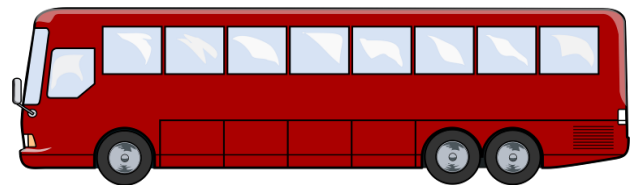
SEW FOR FAITH meets on **Wednesdays** from **9:30 - 11:30 am**. Come and join us for fellowship and help with our current projects. You don’t need to know how to sew.



CHOIR practices are on **Monday nights** at **6 pm**. We welcome more voices to join us!



HANDBELL CHOIR practices are on **Wednesday afternoons** at **5 pm**.



LET'S GO COACHIN' - The Ministry of Congregational Life invites you, your family, and friends to join other members of Christ Lutheran Church for fun and fellowship on one of Renee Cragg's trips!

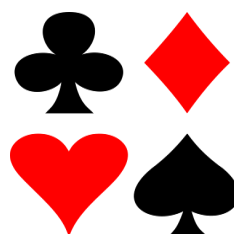
March 11th - Soaring Eagle Casino Day Trip
March 15th & 16th - Bay Mills Casino, Brimley; Kewadin Casino, Sault St. Marie (overnight); Odawa Casino, Mackinaw City.

April 28th, 2025 - Peter Noone & Herman's Hermits Concert at Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort. “Early Bird” day out for a concert, fun, and food. \$40 per person includes ticket to the show, transportation, games and snacks, \$20 in free play at the casino and a \$10 food voucher.

August 23rd - 31st, 2025 - Alaskan Cruise
September 7th - 11th, 2025 - Lancaster
September 17th - 25th, 2025 - New England Adventure

Check out the bulletin board for more information and other trips for 2025!

RENEE'S TRAVEL LLC 989-325-0408. SEE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE BULLETIN BOARD.



EUCHRE FUN GAMES - Euchre is now twice a month! Mark your calendar for the following dates and times: **March 8, April 12, and May 10** at **2:00 pm**. In addition, **March 29, April 26, and May 17** there will be euchre at **6:30 pm**. Bring your family and friends and enjoy an afternoon/evening of fun and fellowship.

YOUTH EVENTS



Sunday School Handbells

Sunday, March 9th - The kids will be playing bells at the 9am service.

Youth & Family

Saturday, March 22nd - Pirate/Princess Party: We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 12pm. Dress in your favorite pirate or princess outfit. Please join us for food, fun, and crafts!

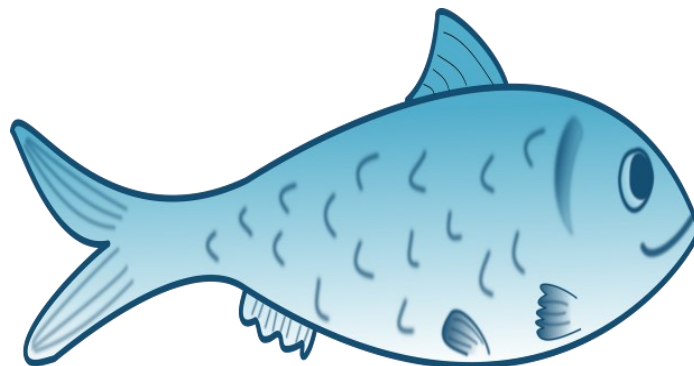


Community Service Project

Saturday, March 22nd at 2pm - Making Cards For the Shut-ins: We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there!

6th - 12th Grade Youth

Friday, March 28th at 6:00pm, Sunday, April 6th at 12:00pm, & Friday, April 10th at 6:00pm - The Chosen: The Last Supper Movie Series: We will meet in the church parking lot to carpool to the Vas-sar Theatre. The estimated time for each event is about 4 hours. Please let Kelly know if you are interested in going.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The Fish Fry is back! Friday, April 4th from 4 - 7 pm or until sold out. On the menu this year is fried pollack, baked cod, au gratin potatoes, French fries, coleslaw, corn, rolls, and cookies. Take out will be available. Cost is \$13 for adults, \$6 for ages 5 - 12 and 4 and under are free.

A lot of help is needed, especially in the dining area. We will also be needing cookies. Sign up sheets are posted.



UCCS COLLECTION FOR MARCH & APRIL:

Paper products: paper towels, toilet paper, tissues

Cleaning products: laundry detergent, dish soap, cleaning supplies.



GOOD SAMARITAN RESCUE MISSION OF BAY CITY OPERATION HOPE & CARE

- Each year during Lent the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission makes a request for Hope & Care Tote Bags. These bags are given out to each family or individual checking in for emergency shelter. Items needed for each bag include body wash & shower puff, bar soap, hand & body lotion, deodorant (men & women), shampoo & conditioner, hairbrushes & combs, shaving cream & razors (men & women), tissues and toothpaste (children & adult). Filled bags can be placed in the basket by the coat rack or you can leave any of the above items and we will make sure they get delivered. Bags will be available the first week of March.



COMMUNITY GARDEN PLANNING MEETING

will be **March 9th at 11:45 am.**

We are looking for ideas on what to plant and volunteers to help plant and keep the garden weeded.

Thank You

Thank you for supporting Hidden Harvest with your generous gift. Your gift will help us continue our mission to alleviate hunger and end food waste in our community. It is greatly appreciated!

Samantha McKenzie
President & CEO

ATTENDANCE

February	9 am Sunday	11 am Sunday	Wednesday	Sunday School
2	60	6		14
5			18	
9	60	18		16
12			Cancelled	
16	20	Cancelled		Cancelled
19			18	
23	85	11		13
26			22	

Christ Lutheran Church of Reese Michigan
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 17, 2025

Present: Sandy Schafsnitz, Chris Bublitz, Trista Jeske-Yax, Shirley Grabowski, Irene Weiss, Mary Felske
Excused: John Ward, Kelly Walz, Jen Shores, Dave Abraham, Pastor Mark

Sandy opened with a prayer at 7:03pm

1. Monthly Reports

- a. Secretary's Minutes: A motion was made by Shirley Grabowski to accept the minutes, supported by Mary Felske, and the motion was carried to accept.
- b. General Funds Report: Mary Felske discussed the results of the yearly audit, everything balanced and there were no issues. A motion was made by Shirley Grabowski to accept the minutes, supported by Irene Weiss, and the motion was carried to accept.
- c. Special Fund Report: A motion was made by Mary Felske to accept the minutes, supported by Shirley Grabowski, and the motion was carried to accept.
- d. Pastor and Office Report: Nothing to report.

2. Unfinished Business

- a. Sandy Schafsnitz will start looking into prices for air conditioning in the Fellowship Hall.

3. New Business

- a. Hot water heater – There are still concerns with how long it takes the hot water to get to the kitchen sinks and how hot it is. A recommendation was made to move the small hot water heater from under the sink in the sacristy to the main kitchen sink that is used to wash dishes. We want to leave the hot water heater in the sacristy to wash the communication cups and water for the baptismal font. It was shared that some of the funeral teams are turning up the hot water heater for the dinner and then turning back down when they are done. The recommended solution is leave the hot water heater turned up, since this is on demand it will only heat the water when needed. Sandy Schafsnitz will talk with Dave Sigelko to see if there is any reason why we shouldn't leave it turned up.
- b. Transfer out Bo Schember to St. Paul Lutheran, Unionville – A motion was carried to accept the transfer out of Bo, we wish him the best in his new congregation.
- c. Val Janson thank you for bonus – Val Janson sent a thank you for the Christmas bonus she received.

4. Ministry Reports

- a. Ministry of Youth and Family – Nothing to report.
- b. Ministry of Property – Nothing to report.
- c. Ministry of Worship and Music – Maundy Thursday services will be at 4:00pm and 7:00pm. First communication for the 4th graders will be at the 7:00pm service on Maundy Thursday.
- d. Social Media Outreach, Congregational Life – There were 9 tables for the first euchre event in February. The second euchre event in February was cancelled due to weather. Trista made phone calls to the regular attendees utilizing the phone list that was created, it went pretty well for the first time using it. Some of the attendees are interested in providing a donation, they will not ask for money but if people want to donate the money will go into the Social Media Outreach, Congregational Life account.
- e. Ministry of Education – The meeting was rescheduled to February 24.
- f. Ministry of Communication – Nothing to report.

Shirley Grabowski made a motion at 8:03pm to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting March 17, 2025 at 7:00pm.

Submitted by Lora DeLong for Kelly Walz

Worship Assistants for March 2025

DATE	LECTORS	MONTHLY COMMUNION SET UP	ACOLYTES 9 am/11 am	USHER TEAMS
March 2	Kelly Walz	Dale Bremer	Owen VanDenBoom/ Jace VanOchten	2
March 9	Renee Zimmer		Harper Bauer/ William Ward	3
March 16	Diane Osantowski		Logan Matthews/ Krissa Cunningham	4
March 23	Jen Shores		Annabelle Walz/ Jace VanOchten	1
March 30	Kelly VanDenBoom		Laine Yax/ William Ward	2



March Birthdays

- 1 Darlene Mallory
- Deborah Heinzman
- Julie Redwanz
- 3 Irene Ramsden – 92nd
- 5 Todd Schultz
- Kelly VanDenBoom
- 6 Ann Bublitz
- 7 Ralph Bublitz – 97th
- 12 Nancy Swanton
- 13 Jenna Donath
- Michael Briggs III
- 15 Sloane Hoffmann
- 16 Tom Magnus
- 18 Tom Lynch
- David Sigelko
- William Ward
- 19 Jan Histed
- 25 Laura Squanda
- 26 Marilyn “Jo” Achenbach – over 80
- 27 John Belger – over 80



March Anniversaries

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|------|
| 2 | Ted & Denise Felske | 1974 |
| 13 | Penny & Ernest Rowe | 2021 |
| 16 | Rich & Nancy Sylvester | 1974 |



Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 am March 9th. Don't forget to move your clocks ahead 1 hour before you go to bed so you are not late for church Sunday morning!